

Chapter 1

The New Jersey Driver License System

Motorists must always carry a valid driver or provisional license, in addition to a current vehicle registration and proof of valid liability auto insurance, while operating a vehicle on New Jersey's roadways. Motorists whose official home address is in New Jersey must be licensed in New Jersey. All legal name changes must be reported to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) within two weeks. Any change of legal residence within the state must be reported to MVC within one week.

The New Jersey basic, unrestricted driver license is available to residents who are at least 18 years old and who have followed the state's Graduated Driver License (GDL) program.

Motorists who move into New Jersey and possess a valid out-of-state driver license must apply for a New Jersey driver license within 60 days, or before the out-of-state driver license expires, whichever occurs first. For those with a Commercial Driver License (CDL), the application for a New Jersey CDL must be made within 30 days. Upon applying for a New Jersey driver license, any valid out-of-state driver license must be surrendered to MVC.

Operators of commercial vehicles, such as large trucks, buses and vehicles that move hazardous materials (HAZMAT), must satisfy more stringent testing standards than the drivers of automobiles or motorcycles.

These operators still must possess a valid, basic New Jersey driver license before applying for a Commercial Driver License.

Types of New Jersey Licenses	
Basic Driver License (class D)	For all types of motor vehicles registered by MVC, except motorcycles
Commercial Driver License (classes A, B, C)	For operation of large trucks, buses and vehicles that move hazardous materials (HAZMAT)
Motorcycle License (class E)	Issued as a separate license, or as an endorsement (M) if motorist already holds a basic New Jersey driver license
Moped License (class F)	For unlicensed drivers, 15 years and older; Not needed if operator has a class A,B,C,D or E license
Agricultural License (class G)	For farming purposes only; May be granted to persons between 16 and 17 years old
Boat License	For operation of motorboats on fresh, non-tidal waters; No license is required for tidal waters; Applicants born after 12/31/79 must present a boating safety certificate

License Cycle

New Jersey issues a four-year driver license. A two-year license is available to motorists at least 70 years old. Motorists under 21 years old are issued a driver license that differs in physical appearance from motorists 21 years or older.

Digital Driver License

New Jersey issues a Digital Driver License (DDL). This license, along with the MVC 6 Point Identification Verification policy, is eliminating the prevalence of fraudulent MVC documents. DDL includes almost two dozen safety and security features, including digital photographs and signature.

(New Jersey's old laminate photo and non-photo paper licenses ceased being issued June 2004, when DDL became available at every MVC agency. It is possible New Jersey motorists will possess valid laminated photo and non-photo paper licenses until July 2008.)

Restrictions

Any restriction on a driver license, such as the requirement to wear corrective contact lenses while driving, will appear on the driver license in a coded form. Information on restrictions is available at any MVC agency.

Digital Driver License



DDL includes almost two dozen safety and security features, including digital photographs and signature.

Types of New Jersey Operator Licenses

Age limits, license fees and required tests (see below) for each type of license are listed in the charts below.


License Type	Basic
Expiration	4 years
Age Minimum	18; permit 16
Permit Fee	\$10
Photo License	\$24
Tests	KVR




License Type	Commercial*
Expiration	4 years
Age Minimum	18
Permit Fee	\$35
Photo License	\$42 plus endorsements
Tests	CKVR



License Type	Motorcycle
Expiration	4 years
Age Minimum	18
Permit Fee	\$5
Photo License	\$24
Tests	KVR



License Type	Moped
Expiration	4 years+
Age Minimum	15
Permit Fee	\$5
Photo License	\$6
Tests	KVR



K= Knowledge V= Vision R= Road C= Commercial Knowledge Test
+4 years, or until basic license obtained
*CDL applicants must be at least 18 years old. CDL applicants under 21 may only operate in New Jersey, and cannot receive HAZMAT or passenger endorsements.

Graduated Driver License (GDL)

New Jersey’s Graduated Driver License (GDL) program introduces driving privileges gradually to first-time drivers and applicants under 21 years old. It is available to applicants 17 years old who have passed MVC’s knowledge and vision tests.

If you’ve never had a driver license, you must follow New Jersey’s GDL program to get your first unrestricted basic New Jersey driver license. GDL is designed to give new drivers sufficient instruction and driving experience. Applicants choose one of the following three ways to progress through GDL.

OPTION - A

OPTION - B

OPTION - C

GDL Definitions

Student Permit Driving Restrictions: No driving between 11:01 p.m. and 5 a.m. Driver cannot use wireless telephone or any wireless device while driving. All student examination permit holders must be accompanied by an Adult Supervising Driver who must possess a valid New Jersey driver license, be at least 21 years old and licensed to drive for at least three years.

Examination Permit: Any New Jersey resident who is at least 17 years old and is not in suspension status may obtain a driver examination permit at any MVC agency.

Provisional Driver License Restrictions: No driving between 12:01 and 5 a.m. Passengers must be from the driver’s household, plus one additional person. If the driver is at least 21 years old, there are no passenger restrictions. Driver cannot use wireless telephone or any wireless device while driving.

Adult GDL Driving Restrictions: All occupants must wear safety belts. Driver cannot use cell phone or any wireless device while driving.

PLEASE NOTE: All holders of a Provisional Driver License whose provisional licensing period is NOT extended by MVC beyond the standard 12 months MUST upgrade to a Basic Driver License after the end of those 12 months.

Motorists eligible for, but WHO DO NOT upgrade to, a Basic Driver License at the end of those 12 months will remain subject to MVC’s Provisional Driver License regulations and could be cited by law enforcement for violating Provisional Driver License regulations.

GDL Exemptions

For GDL drivers under 21, all hours-related exemptions for employment or religious reasons must be accompanied by a legible certification to indicate this need on the letterhead of employer, organization or religious institution, with signature of certifying official above title, address and telephone number.

Graduated Driver License Program

The Early Bird Road

STEP

1 Get a Student Learner Permit

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must have signed parent or guardian consent
- Must be enrolled in approved behind-the-wheel driving training course
- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision tests
- Must pay required fee

MVC will validate Student Learner Permits ONLY after training course completion.

STEP

2 Practice with an Adult Supervising Driver

- Must observe Student Permit Restrictions
- Must practice at least six months

STEP

3 Get a Provisional License

- Must have completed six months of supervised driving
- Must pass MVC's road test
- Must be at least 17 years old

STEP

4 With a Provisional Driver License

- Must practice unsupervised driving for at least one year
- Must observe Examination Permit Driving Restrictions

STEP

5 Get the Basic Driver License

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have completed one year of unsupervised driving with Examination Permit restrictions
- Must pay required fee

• Permit may not be used for practice driving until validated at an MVC driver testing center.

Graduated Driver License Program

The Young Adult Road

STEP

1 Get an Examination Permit

- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision test
- Must be at least 17 years old
- Must pay required fee
- Must obtain parent or guardian consent

STEP

2 Practice Supervised Driving

- Must practice with an adult supervising driver
- Must practice at least six months
- Must observe Examination Permit Driving Restrictions

STEP

3 Get a Provisional License

- Must have completed six months of Supervised Driving
- Must pass MVC's road test

STEP

4 Practice Unsupervised Driving

- Must practice for at least one year
- Must follow Examination Permit requirements

STEP

5 Get the Basic Driver License

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have completed one year of unsupervised driving requirements
- Must pay required fee

Graduated Driver License Program

The Adult Road

STEP

1

Get an Examination Permit

- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision tests
- Must pay required fee

STEP

2

Practice Supervised Driving

- Must practice with Adult Supervising Driver
- Must observe Adult GDL Driving Restrictions
- Must practice for at least three months

STEP

3

Get a Provisional License

- Must have completed Supervised Driving period
- Must pass MVC's road test

STEP

4

Practice Unsupervised Driving

- Must observe Adult GDL Driving Restrictions
- Must practice for at least one year

STEP

5

Get the Basic Driver License

- Must have completed Unsupervised Driving period
- Must pay required fee

Commercial Driver License (CDL)

New Jersey's CDL is available only to those applicants who already have a basic, unrestricted New Jersey driver license. CDL has three separate endorsements: class A, B and C.

Class A is necessary for operators of tractor trailers or any truck with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of more than 26,001 pounds, if the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds. This endorsement allows the motorist to operate all vehicles in class B, C and D, if all requirements have been met.

Class B is necessary for operators of any vehicle with a GVWR of more than 26,001 pounds:

- *towing a GVWR trailer less than 10,000 pounds*
- *a bus with GVWR more than 26,001 pounds designed to transport 16 or more passengers*

This endorsement allows the motorist to operate all vehicles in class C and D, if all requirements have been met.

Class C is necessary for operators of any vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds used and placarded to move hazardous material, and:

- *any bus, including school buses, designed to transport more than 16 passengers, including the driver, and with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds, and all school vehicles designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver*
- *any for-hire bus or other for-hire vehicle designed to transport between 8 and 15 passengers, including the driver*

CDL Exemptions

Taxi drivers, ride-sharing van drivers (not for-hire), firefighters, operators of rescue or first aid vehicles, farmers hauling their own products and equipment within 150 miles of their farms, non-civilian operators of military equipment and operators of construction equipment not designed for public roads, and personal use recreational vehicle users, are all exempt and need not apply for a CDL.

CDL Endorsements

Most CDL operators will need to obtain at least one special endorsement, which includes:

- *Double and Triple Trailer (class A)*
- *Passenger*
- *Tank Vehicle (hauling gasoline, other liquids)*
- *Hazardous Material (HAZMAT)*

CDL Restrictions

Numbered restrictions, such as for corrective contact lenses, are noted on all noncommercial and commercial licenses.

CDL Manual

Information on CDL testing is available in the CDL Manual, which can be obtained at any MVC agency or Regional Service Center (RSC).

Special License for Hearing Impaired

A special driver license for deaf motorists, or those with a hearing impairment of 41 db loss or more, is provided by MVC. To obtain this driver license, which is designated with the international symbol of the deaf or a numerical code, a motorist must complete an application available at any MVC agency. Physician or audiologist verification is necessary.

Examination Permits For Out-of-State/Country Drivers

All nonresident drivers are required within 60 days as permanent New Jersey residents, or before an out-of-state driver license expires, to purchase an examination permit. Nonresidents under 18 years old are subject to GDL requirements, even if in possession of a valid out-of-state driver license. All nonresidents must meet MVC’s Identification Verification requirements to obtain an examination permit.

Noncitizens must meet MVC’s Identification Verification requirements to obtain an examination permit. Examples of persons with temporary immigration status who are eligible for an examination permit include: treaty traders, students, temporary workers, foreign information specialists, persons with temporary deportation protection, Canadians with temporary legal U.S. status, entertainment groups, international athletes, and parents of U.S. citizens.

Permit, Non-driver ID and License Updates and Corrections

Information displayed on permits, non-driver IDs and driver licenses MUST be accurate.

Legal name changes, including corporate name changes, must be reported to MVC within two weeks.

Updates and corrections may be made in person at any MVC agency or via the Internet at www.njmvc.gov.

Possessing or displaying an altered or counterfeited license is punishable by license suspension, fine and jail time.

Item to be Changed	Reason for Change	Proof Required
Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marriage• Divorce• Adoption• Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marriage Certificate• Divorce Decree• Court Adoption Papers• Certified Court Papers
Date of Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth Certificate, or Certified Copy• U.S. Passport• DoS Birth Certificate• Alien Registration Card• U.S. Citizenship Papers• Military ID• U.S. Adoption Papers• Military Discharge Papers (DD214)• U.S. Naturalization Certificate
Social Security Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Security Card
Weight, Height	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correction/Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Sex Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amended Birth Certificate• Certified Court Papers

Lost or Stolen Permit, Non-driver ID and License

Lost or stolen non-driver IDs, permits and licenses can be replaced in person at all MVC agencies. MVC will provide a duplicate non-driver ID or license for a fee of \$11. Motorists should report loss or theft to local police.

Lost or stolen permits can be replaced in person at all MVC agencies. MVC will provide a duplicate permit for a fee of \$3. For motorists under 17 years old, a licensed driving instructor must apply for the duplicate. Duplicate Commercial Driver License (CDL) permits are available at any MVC agency.

Handicapped non-diver ID duplicates are \$7; changes, \$9.